

Summer Psalms  
**HALLELUJAH**  
Monday, August 11  
Reading: Psalm 113

**Psalm 113:1** *Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, you His servants; praise the name of the LORD. 2 Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore. 3 From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised.*

Psalms 113 through 118 are called “Hallel” psalms (sometimes called Egyptian Hallal psalms because of their connection with the Exodus). The Hebrew word “Hallel” means praise and “yah” is a shortened form of the name of God (Yahweh). Thus the first words of Psalm 113 can be translated as “Hallelujah.” This is the theme of these psalms. They were sung throughout the year but especially during the annual feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

After introducing the call to praise the Lord (113:1-3), Psalm 113 begins by telling the greatness of God (113:4-6). Too often we try to squeeze God into our own little boxes. We think of God in ways that our minds can understand and control. But God is beyond the ability of human minds to fully grasp. He is exalted or high above all nations. The universe cannot contain His glory. He sits as King of the universe. The words “stoops down” mean to humble oneself. God is so great that He must humble Himself to view the heavens and the earth! He is not contained in His creation. He is separate and ruling over it! That is the majesty of the great God we are to praise!

The final line of verse 6 leads us into the second half of this psalm. God is great and majestic, yet He stoops down to help us in our need (113:7-9). As we have seen over and over again, God has a special concern for those who cannot help themselves. These verses speak of Him lifting up the poor and needy.

Verses 7-8 are quoted from the prayer of Hannah found in 1 Samuel 2:8. It appears the psalmist used her words to remind us of her story which is an example of what is said in Psalm 113:9. Hannah was barren, which was a disgrace to Jewish women at that time. Some would even see it as a curse from God. She prayed that God would give her a son and promised to give the child back to the Lord’s service. God answered her request and Samuel was born. He would grow up to be the last great judge of Israel and the prophet to anoint Israel’s first two kings, Saul and David.

This is our reason for praising the Lord! Though His great power and sovereignty is beyond our human understanding (Isaiah 55:8-9) we can see His love and mercy in His care for the weak and outcasts. Those the world sees as worthless and tosses aside, God reaches down and lifts them up.

Can you say “Hallelujah” to that! Can you praise God for His majesty and then see people the way He sees them? Praising God includes helping and treating people the way God does – to reach out with His compassion to a poor and needy world. You cannot fully praise the Lord until your heart beats with His!